

REMARKS:

Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 2, 9, 13, 15, 30, 32, 34 and 35 have been amended herein so that claims 2-6, 9, 10, 13, 15-28 and 30-35 are presently pending. Of the pending claims, claims 13, 15, 16 and 34 are independent.

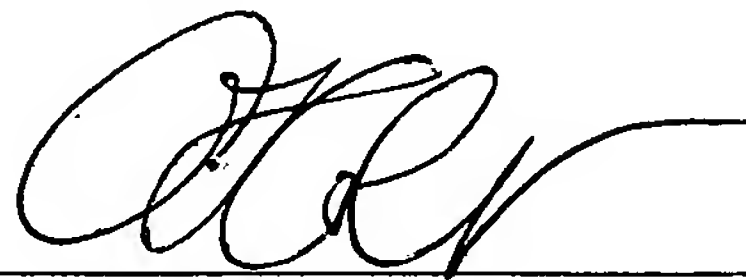
United States Patent No. 6,050,023 was disclosed in Applicant's recently filed Information Disclosure Statement in the above-referenced application. It is respectfully submitted that the invention recited in claims 2-6, 9, 10, 13, 15-28 and 30-35 is believed to be patentable over the '023 patent. Thus, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is courteously requested. Should the Examiner have questions, the undersigned may be contacted at (800) 445-3460.

A check in the amount of \$43.00 also accompanies this Amendment for the one (1) additional independent claim. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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